(v) The Committee headed by Additional Secretary (Power) submitted its recommendations regarding Ring fencing Load Despatch Centres. Secretary (Power) held a meeting on 7.10.2008 with CERC, SERCs and the States Secretaries to fix time line for quick implementation of this report. Three task force have been constituted for this purpose.

(vi) In some cases brought before the CERC about alleged refusal of open access by SLDCs, CERC has passed orders to ensure that the SLDCs perform their statutory functions without any discrimination.

(vii) The inter-Ministeial Task Force on Measures for Operationalising Open Access in the Power Sector constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member (Power), Planning Commission, which has just submitted its report.

(d) Question does not arise.

Load shedding in Maharashtra

†270. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether load shedding in rural and urban areas of Maharashtra has increased this year;

(b) whether Government is providing more power to Maharashtra to tackle this problem;

(c) if so, the quantum thereof; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) According to the information reported, the maximum load shedding carried out in Maharashtra during the months of April and May, 2008 was less than the same as compared to last year by about 2460 MW and 730 MW. However, from June to August, 2008, the load shedding increased by 330 MW to 2160 MW.

(b) to (d) The prevailing allocation of power to Maharashtra from the Central Generating Stations is around 3048 MW as compared to around 2895 MW as on 31st March, 2008.

Setting up of Ultra Mega Power Projects

271. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 429, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 2008 and state:

(a) whether any further progress has been made towards identifying the sites for ten Ultra Mega Power Projects, to be set up in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of those Mega Power Projects which are likely to be completed within the Eleventh Five Year Plan, indicating the annual power to be generated and the areas to be served, in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Further to the progress given in response to Unstarred Question No.429 answered on 3.3.2008 of the nine Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) envisaged under the Central Government initiative, the current position regarding site identification is as follow:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In Orissa, a site near Bhedabahal village in sundergarh district has since been confirmed by State Government. The State Government has also confirmed water allocation from Hirakud reservoir for 7 months and from Ib river for 5 months. However, the CEA has requested Government of Orissa to allow drawal of water from Hirakud reservoir only. In Chhattisgarh, a site located near villages Salka and Khameria in district Sarguja has been confirmed by the State Government. However, the approval for water allocation for the Proposed UMPP has not yet been provided by the government of Chhattisgarh. In Tamil Nadu, a site in Cheyyur village in Kanchipuram district, along with site for development of a captive port near Paramankeni village, has been finalized and approved by the State Government. Site investigation work has been initiated by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). In Maharashtra, the State Government has recently indicated a site near Munge village in Devgarh Taluka in Sindhudurg District along with a captive port near Achra creek. In Karnataka, a suitable site has not been identified.

(c) Full benefits of these projects are expected in the 12th Plan. Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) have been signed in respect of three of the projects i.e. Sasan, Mundra and Krishnapatnam, where the bidding process has been completed and the projects awarded to the identified developers. However, as per the PPA, the developers have an option to advance the commissioning schedule. The revised PPA has been signed in respect of Sasan and Mundra UMPP. According to the revised PPA, two units each of Sasan (2x660 MW) and Mundra (2x800 MW) UMPPs will come in 11th Plan; the States to be served by these UMPPs are:

Sasan UMPP: Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.

Mundra UMPP: Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Electrification in Jharkhand

272. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to energize more households in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) proposes to give any amount, as soft loan, to the Jharkhand Government, for this purpose; and

(d) whether there are any plans to provide at least one light point to all SC/ST households in the villages already energized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Over 29.26 lakh household connections are to be released in 22 districts of Jharkhand wherein RGGVY projects are under implementation. District-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) 90% of the project cost under RGGVY is being released as capital subsidy, balance 10% of the project cost is given by REC as loan at a rate which is 0.5% less than the normal lending rate.

(d) RGGVY envisages electrification of all BPL househods including eligible SC/ST households in Jharkhand. Under RGGVY rural BPL household are being provided one light point free of cost as per Kutir Jyoti norms. 22 RGGVY projects operational in Jharkhand provide coverage for release of over 16.92 lakhs BPL household connections in Jharkhand. District-wise details are given at Statement.